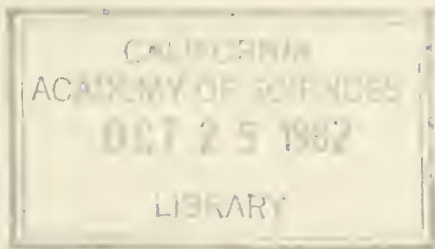
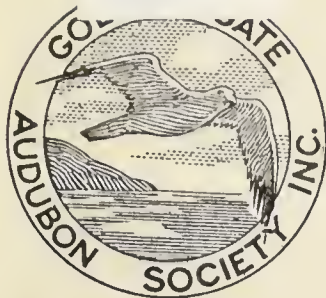


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the gull

Volume 64 Berkeley, Calif. November 1982 Number 10

Wildflowers

Our November general membership meeting will be an audio-visual program on wildflowers. Ron Berchin, an expert wildflower photographer currently writing a wildflower field guide, will speak on wildflower families (orchids, violets, sunflowers, etc.) and on species which hold special interest. Ron's lecture will be accompanied by excellent slides and music. Flowers of the Santa Cruz Mountains, Mount Tamalpais, Pt. Reyes, the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains will be represented.

After the slideshow Ron will discuss techniques of macro-photography and it's application to wildflower photography. Wildflower enthusiasts and photographers are encouraged to join us and participate in the discussion.

The meeting will be at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley, on **Thursday, November 11** at 7:30 p.m.

—PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Field Trips Calendar

See the October *Gull* for the following trips:

Sunday, November 7—Tennessee Valley.

Saturday, November 13—Coyote Hills Regional Park.

Sunday, November 14—Briones Regional Park.

Wednesday, November 10—Mini-trip to San Francisco Wildlife Refuge. Meet at the refuge at 9:15 a.m. From the East Bay take Hwy. 17 and exit on Jarvis. Where Thornton Ave. intersects Hwy. 84 make a left turn into the parking lot. From the West Bay take Hwy. 101 over

the Dumbarton Bridge. This is an excellent opportunity to visit a salt marsh with a professional ornithologist. Heavy rain cancels trip. Bring scope and lunch. Trip is limited to the first 26 people who call the leader. Leader: Ruth Voss (525-8032).

Saturday, November 20—Corte Madera Marsh. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking area across the street from the trailer court just south of the Lucky Drive exit from Hwy. 101. This exit is just south of the Sir Frances Drake/Larkspur Ferry Terminal. Bring a scope, lunch and liquids. Rubber boots are desirable. This trip is frequently rainy but will not be rained-out. We should see ducks, wading birds, shorebirds and perhaps Burrowing Owls and Merlin. Leader: Bob Hirt (383-5337). (✓)

Thursday, November 25—Traditional Thanksgiving outing to Point Reyes National Seashore. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal, Section H, or at 10 a.m. at the Point Reyes National Seashore headquarters at Olema. We will have a leisurely day of birding and hiking in the headquarters area and along the Estero Trail to the ocean. We generally see an excellent variety of waterfowl, shorebirds and land-birds. The day will end with the Thanksgiving dinner (about \$8) at Jerry's Farmhouse in the town of Olema. Bring a light lunch, scope and clothes for cool and windy weather. Leader: Barry Spitz (461-1930 days or 454-2769 between 6 and 9 p.m.). (✓)

Saturday, December 4—Bollinas Lagoon. Meet at 8 a.m. at the first large pull out at the south end of the lagoon. This is north of the town of Stinson Beach. Bring lunch, raingear, scopes and footwear suitable for wet conditions. We will be looking for waterbirds and shorebirds. Leader: Dave Shuford (669-7429). (✓)

Wednesday, December 8—Mini-trip to Arrowhead Marsh, Oakland. Meet at the marsh at 9:30 a.m. Take the Nimitz or Warren Freeways to Heggenburger Rd. and go just past Leet over a small bridge. Immediately at the end of the bridge is an unmarked road with a small parking lot. This is the beginning of an interesting level walk of about three-quarters of a mile. We will see ducks, herons and shorebirds at close range. Leaders: Delpha de Timofeev and Ruth Voss (525-8032).

Note from the Field Trips Committee—Beginners are always welcome on GGAS field trips. Leaders and participants are eager to intro-

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duce people to this activity we all enjoy. From time to time the committee will arrange trips planned especially for beginners. These trips will generally go to nearby areas to see resident species.

Beginners' Field Trip to Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park. Sunday, December 5. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot between South and Middle Lakes near 41st Ave. and Lincoln Way. We will identify the common waterbirds and landbirds of this area. Bring binoculars and field guide if you have them. The trip will end before lunch. Leader: Woody Kuehn (239-7914).

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-9053 and leave a message. She will telephone you.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

Summer Safari Sponsored by GGAS

The profuse wildlife and birdlife of Southern Africa will be the focus of a three week July Safari to Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe, sponsored by GGAS and led by naturalist Mike Wihler.

Traveling to remote game parks, such as Etosha, Moremi and Kariba, participants in this three week tour will enjoy an unbelievable variety of birds and mammals. There will be Fish Eagle, Marabou Stork, African Jacana, four species of bee-eater, more than 500 species of birds in Botswana, alone. It is possible to see 10,000 head of wildbeast in a single day and to be surrounded by more than 50 elephant on an afternoon game drive.

Accommodations are in comfortable lodges and tented camps with excellent food. Transport is by private plane, land rover or minibus within countries.

Tour leader Mike Wihler, a past member of GGAS's board of directors and chairman of the extended field trips committee, has led other nature trips through the United States and Latin America.

Tour cost, including air from San Francisco, will be approximately \$4,600. Further details can be obtained from Gulliver's Travel, 3625 Sacramento St. San Francisco, 94118, or by phone 346-4400.

September Observations — through September 29

Vagrant-hunting weather during the first half of the season was very poor, with clear skies occasionally broken by early storms sweeping the state. Eastern vagrants were therefore few, and most represented the more common species. Shorebirding seemed about average. The month's best birding was had on pelagic trips, and their excitement was enhanced by spectacular marine mammals.

PELAGICS

Warmer water than usual near our shores in mid-September brought abnormal prey concentrations and attracted remarkable concentrations of birds. Perhaps the first clue was **hundreds of thousands** of shearwaters (mostly Sooty) feeding just off the Cliff House in San Francisco Sept. 13 (AH). Such inshore concentrations are normally a summer phenomenon. On Sept. 18, a Monterey pelagic trip found **100,000** shearwaters (80% Sooty, 20% Pink-footed, 1% Buller's) feeding 5 to 12 miles off Cypress Point (AB, TC, DLS, *et al*). Included were a partial albino Sooty Shearwater that closely resembled Cape Petrel and a leucistic Buller's Shearwater that suggested Streaked Shearwater. On Sept. 22, "only" 50,000 shearwaters (up to **2,000** Buller's) were 12 to 14 miles offshore, mostly well-fed and resting (DLS, mob). That day **5-7** Flesh-footed Shearwaters were identified (AS, mob). Most astounding was the totally unprecedented number of South Polar Skuas: about **40** (SFB, mob), 25% of which were *not* with the shearwaters. In the big flocks Skuas were always in sight, with up to 5 being seen together! Jaegers were also numerous Sept. 22, and 2 **Long-tailed Jaegers** enlivened the flocks (GMcC, mob). Good flights of Sabine's Gull and Arctic Tern were present both days off Monterey after unprecedented numbers passed SE Farallon Sept. 15-17 (600 Arctic Terns and 20 Sabine's Gulls on Sept. 15-PRBO).

Some warm-water pelagic birds were not associated with the shearwaters. Most of the **40+ Craveri's Murrelets** Sept. 17 (*fide* DLS) and **34** counted Sept. 18 (DLS, AB, TC, *et al*) were seen along the north rim of the Monterey Bay Submarine Canyon. Apparently these murrelets departed within the next few days. **Least Storm-Petrels** were discerned in the Monterey Bay petrel flock, about 10 on Sept. 18 (TC, AB, *et al*) and 4 on Sept. 26 (JM, AB, *et al*). Wilson's Storm-Petrel is not a warm-water species, and it is regular in the petrel flock. One was found Aug. 29 (DLS, *et al*), two Sept. 18 (TC, AB *et al*), and one Sept. 26 (JM, AB, *et al*). However, the best pelagic find was alone and only 1.5 miles off Moss Landing, our fourth **Streaked Shearwater** Sept. 26 (RK, AB, JM, mob).

Away from the ocean, the usual scattering of jaegers penetrated San Francisco Bay (mob), but a juvenal at Stockton Sewage Ponds Sept. 15-24 (DY, JML) was more noteworthy, as was a juvenal Sabine's Gull there Sept. 24 (JML). Fifty Sooty Shearwaters were apparently following fish schools between Alameda Naval Air Station and San Francisco Sept. 17 (SFB, LDC). I am not aware of any other records south of the Bay Bridge. Although Common Murres are numerous inside the Bay as far as Angel Island waters in August and early September, they are rare along more inland shores. This September small numbers of Common Murres were scattered throughout San Francisco Bay (mob). A Marbled Murrelet at Monterey Sept. 22 (RW, mob) was rare south of Santa Cruz County.

OTHER WATERBIRDS

The peak count of Brown Pelicans on SE Farallon was 1600 Sept. 12 (PRBO). White-faced Ibis accumulated at Charleston Slough, Palo Alto, with 4 on Sept. 10 (CB, *fide*, TG) and Sept. 15 (TG, DSe), 10 on Sept. 25 and 15 Sept. 27 (both BBo). Scarce inland on Sept. 18 were three Lesser Golden-Plovers at Lodi Sewage Ponds and three Red Knots at Stockton Sewage Ponds (both DY). Coastally the best shorebirds were a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Abbott's Lagoon Aug. 29-30 (TB), a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Elkhorn Slough Sept. 12 (KVV, KC), a Ruff at Salinas River Mouth Sept. 21 (KVV, KC), and a Stilt Sandpiper at Mendoza Pond Sept. 28 (JRo, *et al*). Topping them was the **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** near Petaluma Sept. 2-8 (LCB, mob, BB). A Franklin's Gull was at Pescadero Creek Mouth Aug. 27 (BS). Four Elegant Terns were very rare at SE Farallon Sept. 11 (PRBO).

EASTERN VAGRANT PASSERINES

A **Least Flycatcher** was banded on SE Farallon Sept. 14-15 (PRBO) and another was well described at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse Sept. 28 (JRo, *et al*). Eastern Kingbirds were found Aug. 29 near Abbott's Lagoon (MS, mob), Sept. 11 at Oakville, Napa Co. (MB), and Sept. 19-20 at Fish Docks and Willows (BA, LP, JW, AG, WC, mob). A Philadelphia Vireo at Point Reyes Willows Sept. 19 was well described (BY). A Red-eyed Vireo visited SE Farallon Sept. 13 (PRBO).

The following table of vagrant warblers emphasizes their scarcity. The 42 individuals of 11 species contrasts with September 1981's 189 individuals of 20 species. However, this month proved that during the peak of vagrant season a few easterners may be found even when the weather remains clear. The Prairie Warbler was early.

Tennessee Warbler (total 2)			
1	Fish Docks	Sept. 22-23	LCB, <i>et al</i>
1	McGinness Park, near Terra Linda	Sept. 18-19	MB, HP
Virginia's Warbler (total 1)			
1	SE Farallon	Sept. 14-17	PRBO
Chestnut-sided Warbler (total 6)			
2	SE Farallon	Sept. 14, 14-15	PRBO
3	Point Reyes	Sept. 15, 23, 23-25	mob
1	Pacific Grove	Sept. 19	DR?
Magnolia Warbler (total 1)			
1	Mendoza	Sept. 19	BY, BA, mob
Cape May Warbler (total 2)			
1	SE Farallon	Sept. 16-20	PRBO
1	Nunes	Sept. 25	BY, CY, DDeS, DW, <i>et al</i>
Prairie Warbler (total 1)			
1	SE Farallon	Aug. 22	PRBO
Palm Warbler (total 1)			
1	Lighthouse + Fish Docks	Sept. 23-25	mob
Blackpoll Warbler (total 14+)			
5+	SE Farallon	Sept. 14(4), 15(5)-20	PRBO
8	Point Reyes	Sept. 15, 19(5), 23, 28	mob
1	Bolinas Lagoon	Sept. 25	BY, <i>et al</i>
Black-and-white Warbler (total 3)			
1	Lighthouse	Sept. 18	SW, LCB, BDP
2	Lincoln Park, S.F.	Sept. 13; 25-27	AH; AH, <i>et al</i>
American Redstart (total 8)			
3	Point Reyes	Sept. 23	BY, <i>et al</i>
1	Tennessee Valley	Sept. 20-27	JDi
2	Lincoln Park, S.F.	Sept. 6; 27	TB; WO
1	Middle Lake, G.G. Park	Aug. 30	DM
1	Lake Merced	Sept. 11	JRo
Northern Waterthrush (total 3)			
2	SE Farallon	Sept. 6, 20	PRBO
1	Gray Lodge	Aug. 30	BED

A male Summer Tanager lingered in Tilden Park Sept. 9-21 (NH, HN, SA). At least two Indigo Buntings stopped at Lincoln Park, San Francisco, Sept. 25 (NB, AH, *et al*). Single Bobolinks passed through Princeton, San Mateo Co., Aug. 26 (BS) and Crespi Pond, Pacific Grove, Sept. 19.

OTHER LANDBIRDS

An Osprey on SE Farallon Sept. 15 was one of a very few ever to reach the island (PRBO). A Swainsons' Hawk passed Pt. Diablo Sept. 19 (BH, *et al*), and the first Broad-winged Hawk report there was Sept. 21 (DiW, MF, *et al*). Another Broad-winged Hawk was at Nunes Ranch Sept. 23 (BY), and a Calliope Hummingbird visited the Lighthouse trees the same day (BY, GH). A male Costa's Hummingbird present on SE Farallon from early August was still there in late September (PRBO)! Two other reverse migrants appeared: a White-winged Dove

at Mendoza Ranch Sept. 19 (CY, JML) and the fall's first Tropical Kingbird at Laguna Grande, Monterey Co., Sept. 26-27 (NMCM, JB, DS).

Typically brief was the observation of a **Yellow Wagtail** flushed at Pt. Pinos, Pacific Grove, Sept. 19 (JD, RB). I've often wondered whether our coastal Blue Grosbeaks are of western or eastern origin. One on SE Farallon Sept. 14-15 (PRBO) was followed by another at Fish Docks Sept. 18-19 (SW, LCB, BDP). The pair of **Great-tailed Grackles** at San Francisco's Aquatic Park are adapting to urban life; the male reportedly comes to eat french fries when called by name ("Jose"), although the female ("Maria") doesn't respond (MO'M).

Observers: Steve Abbors, Bev Anderson, Onik Arian, Paul A. Arnerich, Stephen F. Bailey, Alan Baldridge, Bruce Barrett (BB), Ginny Becchini, Max Beckwith, Murray Berner, Laurence C. Binford, Neil Blank, Bill Bousman (BBo), Ron Branson, Tony Briggs, June Buntin, Karen Cartier, Ted Chandik, Joel Childers, Audrey Codell, Laura D. Collins, David DeSante, Bruce E. Deuel, John Dillon (JDi), Jon Dunn (JD), Jules Evens, Mary Farr, Tim Gates, Albert Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Nancy Hillyard, Bob Hirt, Alan Hopkins, George Hugenberg, Richard Koepfel, eri M. Langham, many observers (mob), Guy McCaskie, Nancy McMahan, Mark Miller, Steve Miller, George Monheiet, Molly Jane Monheiet, Joseph Morlan, Dan Murphy, Harold Newman, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Chris Swarth), Molly O'Malley, Winnifred Orcutt, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Holly Peake, Lina Prairie, Cliff Richer, Jean Richmond (JR), Don Roberson, Allen Royer, Jim Royer (JRo), Barry Sauppe, Don Schmoldt (DSs), Dennis Serdehely (DS), Debra Love Shearwater, Arnold Small, Rich Stallcup, Maury Stern, Dorothy Tobkin, David Trocki, Kent Van Vuren, Ruth Voss, Richard Webster, Jack Whetstone, Dianne Williams (DiW), Steve Wilson, David Winkler (DW), David Yee, Boby Yutzy, Carol Yutzy, Jon Zablackis.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology,
University of California, Berkeley, CA 94702
(phone 548-9507 or Joe Morlan at 524-7421)

Poorwill in the Financial District

The Curator of Birds and Mammals of the California Academy of Sciences, Luis F. Baptista, writes:

Readers of *The Gull* may be interested to know that the SPCA brought a Poorwill to this department on September 29, 1982. It was found in downtown San Francisco and had no evidence of external injuries. Dr. John Arnold photographed the bird.

Oakland Christmas Bird Count

The 1982 Oakland Christmas Bird Count will begin bright and early on Sunday morning, December 19.

Last year's participants will receive a letter with information on the 1982 count. Anyone who didn't count last year but wants to participate this year may call Kurt Campbell, before 9:00 p.m. at 236-4182. If you are unable to reach Kurt, phone Andrea Kieserman at the GGAS office, 843-2222.

Feeder coverage is also important. The feeders give many of our national records for high species counts. They often attract and keep rarities. If you have a feeder and would like to count birds, telephone Kurt or Andrea.

This year we hope we will have less rain and more observers. Join us!

—KURT CAMPBELL and PHIL UNITT

Christmas Count Compilers

Audubon Canyon Ranch

1982 has been an unusual, but very productive year. It started with the January storm which literally changed the contours of Volunteer, Garden and Picher Canyons. Besides changing the stream courses in all three canyons, it washed out the gravity water lines in Picher and Volunteer. Although the damage was excessive, no structural damage was incurred. All educational programs were on schedule and most successful. The funding for this emergency came on a non-matching basis from the San Francisco Foundation. A lot of work still needs to be done.

The building programs funded on a matching basis are all subscribed. The residence has been repaired, a new women's toilet are installed, and the new garage and shed completed. At the same time, the new all-weather road at Cypress Grove is finished. The renovation of the bookstore and exhibit hall has started. Please come and see the progress.

The goals for the coming year include finishing the storm damage repair, installing a hard coat surface on the parking area, a new spillway on Livermore Marsh at Cypress Grove, and a continual refinement of the educational program at Stinson Beach, Tomales Bay and our Sonoma Preserve. Continued support of the work is needed and appreciated.

—THOMAS S. PRICE

Conservation Notes

WETLANDS ENDANGERED

The permit program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, established under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, has been an important factor in protecting wetlands in this country. The program will be substantially weakened by time—and money-saving changes initiated by the Reagan Administration. As announced by the Corps on July 22, the proposed regulatory changes would shorten the time period for decision-making and appeals, simplify guidelines on which decisions are based, and narrow the definition of wetlands covered by 404. Nationwide permits would allow unregulated dredge and fill in certain types of wetlands. The intent is to hand over responsibility to the individual states, but at present few states have adequate regulatory programs for wetlands.

Of particular interest to GGAS members is the effect that these changes could have on migratory waterfowl, as they would remove Federal protection from prairie potholes and other links in the waterfowl flyway systems. In California the new regulations would remove protection from many wetland areas which are important wildlife habitats. For example, 80 square miles of diked historic wetlands in the San Francisco Bay Area, freshwater marshes in San Joaquin Valley, and 50,000 acres of wetlands in the Sacramento Valley would be vulnerable. The Salton Sea and Mono Lake could also be effected.

The proposed regulations have actually been in effect since their publication in July, but the Corps must still make the final decision to adopt them. At this writing, October 1, it has not yet done so. It remains to be seen whether the comments of environmental groups, including GGAS, which were sent to the Corps during their comment period in August, will have any influence on their decision.

—RUTH VOSE

ARTS DRAWING FOR MONO LAKE

The Drawing for the tapestry by Rusty Brockman, watercolor by Lady Jill Mueller, color photo by Stephen Johnson and various objects of brass, ceramics, wood and so on donated by the Audubon Society will take place at 6 P.M., Friday, November 19 at REI Coop, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Volunteers for the Mono Lake Committee working on this fund-raiser to help defray expenses in the legal battle to save Mono Lake would like to sell a few more thousands of dollars worth of tickets! Tickets may be obtained from Sierra Club offices in Oakland and San Francisco and various people mentioned in previous issues of *the Gull*. To make arrangements to have tickets entered in your name or to make a donation, you may call Arts Drawing headquarters at 526-1260.

Persons interested in joining the artists for dinner at Spenger's in Berkeley at 7:15 P.M. after the drawing at REI are invited to call the number above to make a reservation. —MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

Color Marked Sanderlings and Black-bellied Plovers

Over the last 8 years the Bodega Marine Laboratory has color-banded some 800 Sanderlings. This fall the Sanderling Project will start a companion program color-banding Sanderlings and Black-bellied Plovers in Peru, Chile, and Ecuador. This work is sponsored by The World Wildlife Fund-US and coordinated by the Wader Study Group to map shore-bird migrations between North and South America.

The project needs your help in a network of observers searching for color-marked Sanderlings. Within California, we want to determine how far away from Bodega Bay the marked birds travel, and also whether any of the South American marked birds migrate northward along the Pacific Coast.

If you want to participate as a regional coordinator or as a local observer, please call or write The Sanderling Project, Bodega Marine Laboratory, P.O. Box 247, Bodega Bay, CA 94923, (707) 875-2211.

If you see a color-marked Sanderling or Black-bellied Plover north or south of Bodega Bay, please send your observations to the Sanderling Project. Each bird has several color bands, one or two on each leg. South American marked birds carry a small leg flag in addition. To find out where your bird is from send in the color combination, noting which colors are where, top and bottom, right or left legs. Even if you cannot read the bands precisely, inform the Project of where and when you saw a marked bird, and how many other birds it was with.

During the last winter the project received many valuable reports of observations of color-marked Sanderlings. Several of the most interesting are:

Crab Cove, east **San Francisco Bay**, August 12, 1981, an uncertain color combination reported by Alice Hoch.

Mouth of San Antonio Creek, **Santa Barbara County**, November 13, 1981, an uncertain color combination sighted by Pat Frost and Glenn Lowe.

Pajaro Dunes, **Monterey County**, November 26-27, 1981, an uncertain color combination reported by James H. Stone.

Big Sur Lighthouse, **Monterey County**, December 13, 1981, an uncertain color combination reported by Brian J. Walton. He saw a Peregrine Falcon capture and eat this Sanderling.

San Elijo Beach, **San Diego County**, first seen March 7, 1982 and observed as late as April 9, by Dr. Terry Meyer. Bird 536 was banded as a juvenile on September 4, 1980 at Bodega Bay. It was seen in Bodega Bay as late as February 23, 1981. It has returned to Bodega as of August 12, 1982.

Grays Harbor, Washington on April 24, 1982, reported by Joseph G. Buchanan and identified as Bird 597. It was banded at Bodega Bay on November 19, 1980. It was seen at Bodega Bay last year until February 22, 1982, and first observed this fall on July 26, 1982. This bird seems to make a habit of wandering. After returning to Bodega Bay in July it remained until late August. It was then seen on Point Reyes Peninsula August 26.

The Back Yard Birder

The cry of a Common flicker and the "Oh, dear me" call of a Golden-crowned Sparrow signal the approach of fall. We don't have dramatic changes of seasons in California but there is a gradual shift of light and temperature that is evident if you're aware. Birds which have summered elsewhere begin appearing in our yards: Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush. What of the many birds who leave our area for warmer climates?

A recent issue of *Natural History* contained an interesting article on birds wintering in the tropics. A number of species move only short distances to warmer spots in North America while the majority of our summer birds leave the continent altogether. We tend to think of them as "our" birds. But are they really just vacationing during the winter or do they set up resident communities in the Southern Hemisphere?

In 1977 the Smithsonian Institute sponsored a symposium which developed this point: the migrant birds referred to as North American species are just as much tropical species as they are northern ones, setting up territories and communities for half the year.

Of what interest is that to us? Imagine the effect of the destruction of native tropical habitats on Northern Hemisphere breeders who winter in Latin America. In addition, consider the lack of pesticide control in these areas. Already several species that winter in Central America are showing up in reduced numbers on their North American breeding grounds. The hooded and Kentucky warblers are prime examples.

An interesting sidelight to this subject is the distribution of birds throughout the Southern Hemisphere. In upper Central America the

concentration of migrant songbirds, both in diversity and abundance, is the greatest. For some reason, the western species ("ours") generally go no further than Southern Mexico and Guatemala while the eastern species tend to go further south to Panama and Colombia. Perhaps this is because the western birds can migrate southward without any drastic changes in temperature and environment, while the eastern birds must cross the Gulf of Mexico before finding suitable areas. Even fewer species winter in South America, probably because the Neotropics support one of the richest and most diverse bird communities in the world. In many cases there is simply no room here in the ecological niche for another similar species. Occasionally there are a few South American species that move further south to breed, leaving room for a North American relative to replace that group's habitat. For example, the Eastern wood pewee is an ecological replacement in Amazonia for the Vermillion flycatcher, which breeds all the way from southern North America to Argentina, but not in Amazonia.

Since birds treat this as one world, spending half the time in North American and half in southern climes, they are dependent upon what happens to their environment in both areas. While our interested groups are doing their best to preserve habitats, the question is, will this be enough without the cooperation of our southern neighbors?

—MEG PAULETICH

Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

Richardson Bay is an arm of the San Francisco Bay touching land in Marin County. The protected waters of Richardson Bay provide an irreplaceable haven for migrating and wintering shorebirds, gulls, and waterfowl. The shallow waters of the bay attract 20,000 to 40,000 wintering waterbirds and as many as 200,000 individuals during peak herring runs.

These birds are now returning to Richardson Bay after their migration down the Pacific flyway on route from their breeding grounds. During the fall and winter months, one can see these birds resting and feeding in a sanctuary that was created for them in 1961, preserving tidal bay land habitat. The National Audubon Society's Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary stretches from off Strawberry Point to an area off West Shore Rd. in Belvedere. The waters in this area are closed to boat use from the months of October to March, for the safety of these birds.

The waters abound with Western Grebe, Surf and White-winged Scoter, scaup species and Ruddy Duck. Other species include Northern Pin-tail, Canvasback, Bufflehead, American Coot and Mallard. Within the dense concentrations of ducks, a number of rare species have been

observed with regularity, including Black Scoter, Oldsquaw, Barrow's Goldeneye and Tufted Duck. Up to ten species of gulls have been recorded.

Herring come into Richardson Bay to lay their eggs in the winter months, providing an abundant food source for waterfowl as well as Harbor Seal and California Sea Lion.

The Sanctuary has 11 land acres overlooking the Bay. Numerous shorebirds can be seen on the shoreline when the tide's movement exposes productive feeding spots along the water's edge including Willets, Spotted Sandpiper, Black Turnstones and Sanderling. Great Blue Heron and Great and Snowy Egret often wade in the shallow bay waters. Flying above the water, as they look for food, several species of tern, Brown Pelican and Double-crested Cormorant can be seen.

A good opportunity to view the waterfowl and shorebirds that spend the fall and winter in our area is to join a sanctuary naturalist on a bird walk, given every Sunday and 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary located in Tiburon, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd. Call 388-2524 for further details.

New Director of Western Education Center

The National Audubon Society announced appointment of Beth Hunning as director of its Western Education Center. Beth comes from southern California and brings a professional education background to the Center. She has had experience with the National Park System as a naturalist at Yosemite. She recently developed an environmental program for the Capistrano Union School District.

Wildlife Film Series

Richardson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary has announced a Sunday wildlife film series:

November 7 "We Call Them Killers", a film about Killer whales.

November 14 "Death of a Legend", a film about wolves, another species threatened by man and his technology, largely because of unfounded myths that have grown up about them.

November 21 "Wolf Pack", a film that absorbs you completely into the unfolding life on the screen. A close look at the life of a wolf pack.

The films are shown at 3:30 p.m. at 376 Greenwood Beach Rd., Tiburon.

A slide show, "Birds in Your Backyard" is to be presented on Sunday, November 21 at 2:30 at the RBWS. Naturalist Meryl Sundovc will introduce the birds that you are most likely to have in your back yard and at your feeder during the fall and winter months.

Treasurer Needed

GGAS has the position of Treasurer open — prestige but no pay. Supervises, but does not do the bookkeeping, financial statements, and tax reports. Signs checks for GGAS, in the GGAS office, 2-4 times a month. Invests the GGAS money and serves on the Finance Committee. Call the GGAS office, 843-2222, to volunteer.

GGAS Library

The library receives every month environmental impact reports, environmental impact statements, ecological studies and government publications on everything from the value of redwood forests to airborne carcinogens. This month's reports are indicative of the variety of materials received.

Recreational Boating Facilities in the San Francisco Bay by the Bay Conservation and Development Commission lists marinas and their facilities, mooring buoys, non-marina docks, dry docks, dry boat storage places and landing facilities. It also discusses boat safety, BCDC permits and proposed bay plan changes.

Proposed Agreement to Manage Fish and Wildlife Resources of the Sacramento - San Joaquin Estuary by the California Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Water Resources gives a description of the existing State Water and Central Valley Project, the water needs of California and a discussion of the operation of the water facilities. The study also includes life histories of the Striped Bass, Salmon, Steelhead and other fish. It also discusses all rare and endangered species present.

If you are interested in these studies or any others in the GGAS library, drop in at the office.

Holiday Sale at the Book Nest

The Western Education Center's bookstore will again have a holiday gift sale from November 3 through December 23. A large inventory of the NAS gift catalog items will be available at discounts of 30 to 80%. In addition, the following special prices are offered.

All NAS Field Guides	Reg. \$12.50	Sale \$6.95
Encyclopedia of NA Birds	Reg. \$60.00	Sale \$39.95
All Bushnell binoculars and telescopes	Reg. 20% off list	Sale 30% off list

Earth-Art Exposition

The second annual Earth-Art Exposition will be held during the Thanksgiving weekend at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Francisco's

Embarcadero Center. More than 41 nature artists will exhibit for sale their original paintings, sculpture, jewelry, photography, tapestries, and watercolors. Sponsored by the Oceanic Society, the show is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. November 26, 27, and 28. There will be no admission charge, and parking is free.

Cooper's Ornithological Society Meeting

On Monday, November 8, 1982, Dr. Susan Hannon from the University of British Columbia at Vancouver will present a talk entitled "Spacing and Aggression in Grouse—the Female's Perspective."

Susan has been working on grouse and ptarmigan for many years, and her talk is sure to be full of insights, for those of us who have never had the opportunity to visit northern Canada and the interesting birds it is home to.

The meeting is open to all people interested in birds, ornithologist and bird watcher alike. It will begin at 8 P.M. and will be preceded by a business meeting at 7:30 P.M. The meeting will be held in room 2503 Life Science Building, University of California, Berkeley.

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Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.
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THE GULL

November 1982

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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$25 per year (individual); \$32 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$6 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$15 per year. Senior citizen individual \$17, senior citizen family \$19. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month.

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